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townof  
northandover.com

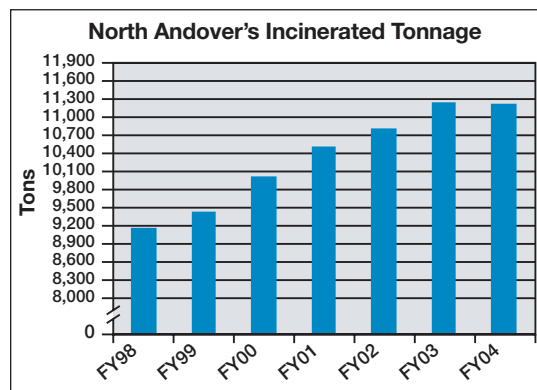
Spring 2005



# It's Working, North Andover!

By Steve Daly

There are clear signs that North Andover residents are diverting more of their household waste from the trash can into their red recycling bins. For the first time in seven years, the trash tonnage trucked off for incineration has actually decreased. Is this significant? "Absolutely!" according to William Hmurciak, DPW Director. "We had averaged a 4.2 percent annual increase in trash tonnage over the last six years. To actually see a decrease, even a small one, is very significant."



There is more evidence that North Andover residents are embracing the "recycle" mantra. The DPW reports a sharp increase in red bin requests. Residents are coming in for their second (or third) red bin to manage their own volume. Also, the volume of recyclables picked up at curbside is up. Even though the hard numbers are not yet available, Hmurciak asserts, "We see that the (recycling truck) driver doesn't get nearly as far into his route before having to empty the load." Plus, the volume of recyclable goods brought to the DPW Drop-Off Center is up. "We've added capacity and still we need to empty the (30-yard) rolloffs more frequently."

More good news? While the decrease noted above relates to FY04 which ended in June, the monthly tonnage brought to the incinerator in July through December of 2004 continued to show a downward trend. "This is awesome," says Tina Klein, North Andover Solid Waste Advisory Committee Chair. "We put the message out to town residents that we don't have money to burn, and that message is being heard."

How important is this effort with the decrease in tipping fees the town will pay starting in September 2005? In the new contract, North Andover's trash fee will decrease from \$160.00 per ton to \$64.00 per ton. Still this is no time to let up. Trash disposal cost has been one of the fastest growing items in the town budget. Funds have been set aside from other accounts in past years to meet our trash fee obligations. Now the reduced tipping fee will help bring more stability to the budget. "The fee reduction is

great, but we should not be satisfied with wasting less money," said Selectman Mark Caggiano, ex-officio member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. "It is clear that we can save tax dollars by recycling more and every town resident is encouraged to do his or her part."

Trash disposal is one cost that we can influence by altering our disposal habits. North Andover is still way off the state average for total percentage of recyclables (38 percent). However, we are getting into good habits of recycling glass, plastics, tin and aluminum cans. Because of its bulk, increased paper and cardboard recycling will give us the most return for the effort. Everyone is aware that newspapers are to be recycled, but other "clean" (no food contact) paper, including junk mail and cardboard, comprise a big part of the waste stream and are an obvious target for our efforts. As of January 31, 2005 cardboard is no longer picked up as trash and must be recycled to comply with state and local law.

To assist seniors and any other residents who may struggle with preparing their cardboard for pick up, the Neighborhood Recycling Captains are available to help. Just e-mail the request to recycle@townofnorthandover.com or call the DPW at 978-685-0950, and your request will be relayed.

Keep up the good work, North Andover!

## How you can help

- Do your best to separate your trash cans from your recycling bins—on different sides of the driveway if possible. This helps both the trash collector and recycling collector.
- Remember that paper recycling should NOT be in plastic bags. Paper only, please.
- While not required, bundling your cardboard really helps the recycling collector work as efficiently as possible. With all the additional materials now collected curbside, bundling is really appreciated!
- Be sure that your trash and recyclables don't litter our community. Cover trash cans, and weight lighter recyclables under heavier items on windy days.
- As you know, we pay by the ton to incinerate our trash. You may also know that each household is allowed to put out one bulky item per week. Please keep bulky items such as mattresses or sofas protected from wet weather. When these items become saturated with rain water, they are more expensive to dispose because we must pay for the total weight of each load, including the water!

# Too toxic for the trash



When you are standing at a store selecting a cleaning product, a weed killer, or a can of paint, you're probably not thinking, "Great, I have to buy hazardous waste again!" However, maybe you should be.

Unused chemicals sitting under your kitchen sink or in your garage can be a poisoning hazard for children and pets. On top of that, they can't even be thrown in the trash without threatening garbage haulers, along with air and water supplies. So, when you buy a chemical product and don't use it up, you're left with a hazardous waste requiring special disposal.

To help residents address these disposal problems, the Town of North Andover provides a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-off event each fall and spring, as well as monthly drop off for some of the most common items. At the HHW Drop-off event, the Town is charged flat fees on a per-vehicle basis. For cars delivering less than 10 gallons or 10 pounds, we pay the "half-car rate" of \$26. For vehicles deliver-

ing between 10 gallons/10 pounds and 25 gallons/25pounds, we pay the "full-car rate" of \$42. Because we are charged in this manner, please deliver your material with a friend or neighbor if you have only a small quantity.

Our next HHW collection event will be held **Saturday, April 16** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DPW Garage, 384 Osgood Street.

Please note we will NOT be accepting latex paint. LATEX PAINT IS NOT CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS WASTE. It can be disposed with your regular trash after it has been allowed to harden. You can harden latex paint by mixing in a latex waste paint hardener (available from paint and hardware stores), adding cat litter to a can that is less than half full, or allowing the paint to air dry by leaving the lid off.

If you have any questions about the HHW collection, please call the DPW at 978-685-0950.

## Avoid the lines on HHW Day

On the third Saturday of each and every month, you can drop off these common household items at the DPW Garage:

- Used motor oil — 50¢/gallon (also collected on the first Saturday)
- Fluorescent light bulbs, both tubes and screw-in type — No charge
- TVs and Computer Monitors — \$5 or \$15, depending on size
- Car batteries — \$2
- Propane tanks — \$2
- Oil-based paint — \$3 per gallon can

# Lend a hand

We'll have our **third annual Earth Day Cleanup in North Andover on Saturday, April 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

We'll be hitting the streets, parks, and ballfields to clear away the litter that accumulated over the winter, so come lend a hand. Your family, neighborhood, scout troop, or church can adopt an area or street to clean. We suggest that you pick an area that you see regularly so that you will get to enjoy the area you clean up.

If you have an area in mind, send an e-mail to recycle@townofnorthandover.com with the street(s) you'll be covering. We are keeping a master list so we know which areas have already been "adopted." If you don't have an area or street in mind, just contact us at recycle@townofnorthandover.com or 978-685-0950 (DPW), and the Recycling Committee will help you find a place. We

also need volunteers with pickup trucks who will pick up bags of trash and deliver them back to DPW.

On Cleanup Day, we'll provide bags and work gloves at check in. If you have your own gloves, please bring them. In the past, many volunteers found it was hard to drop litter into a trash bag as they walked. If you have a bucket, such as a 5-gallon bucket with a handle, bring it, fill it up as you walk, and then empty the bucket into the bag. Once you're done with your cleanup, you can deliver the full bags to the BIG dumpster at the DPW, or you can call the check-in table to tell us where your bags are located and we'll send a volunteer to pick them up.

We would also like to thank our 500 past volunteers for all their hard work. Together, they have picked up 75 cubic yards of trash and litter from our town.



# Gargantuan garage sale

Do you still have the trumpet you used to play? What about the hand-me-down couch from Grandma's house that you no longer need? Or, is it craft books on a long-since abandoned hobby? We all have items in our house that we store for no good reason. Maybe you haven't gotten rid of these items because a garage sale seems like a lot of work or you don't have a truck in which to load the couch to deliver it to a charity.

No more excuses! The Internet is making it easier than ever to sell, trade, or give away things that you no longer want or need. It's like a huge nationwide garage sale. At auction sites, such as eBay, you can invite bids on your used stuff. At waste exchange sites, you can make arrangements to swap or, sometimes, sell your goods. At donation sites, you can learn how or where to drop items off. Or, you can post items that you would like to give away and wait for a taker, whether that is an individual or a charitable organization. No matter the method, ensuring that your good stuff gets reused is no more than a few mouse clicks away (see box).

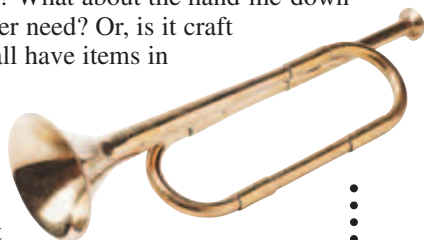
Each of the sites devoted to reuse has its own rules and requirements. To post at the site, you often have to register or become a "member of the community." In most cases, there will be a few simple steps that connect you and your goods with the rest of the folks in cyberspace. Don't be daunted by the sign-up procedures. Once you're registered, participation is usually simple.

Getting reusable items into the hands of someone else

**The Internet is also a great place to find gently used items that you need. Check out these same sites when you need to shop for something new-to-you.**

who can use them is a great way to reduce your waste. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, about 23.3 percent of our municipal solid waste is actually reusable, including durable goods, such as appliances and furniture, and textiles, including clothes, blankets, and bedding. By the EPA's estimates, only about 16.7 percent of that material is currently being reused. This means the remainder is headed to disposal facilities—for no good reason.

Take part in the world's gargantuan, virtual garage sale.



**W**hen disaster strikes here at home or around the world, the first priority is always ensuring the safety of victims and meeting the basic human needs of survivors and their families. As that initial crisis wanes, communities are left with mountains of debris.

Last year, four separate hurricanes hit Florida during a two-month period, leaving behind 75 million cubic yards of vegetative (limbs, trees, and other plant waste) and construction/demolition debris. That was three times the volume of vegetative and construction/demolition debris in a typical 12-month period. In Florida, this waste was handled at 350 staging areas, many of which were mobilized to respond to hurricane debris only. Cleanup will take a year or more.

Much of the debris from any natural disaster is organic and woody. The vast majority of this material is chipped and turned into mulch. However, cleanup crews and debris site workers must beware of hazardous materials, including household hazardous waste, inadvertently mixed with these materials. As you know, household hazardous waste is so named because it is poisonous, corrosive, reactive, flammable, or explosive. Cleanups are dangerous enough without adding these hazards to the debris piles.

While none of us controls hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, mudslides, wildfires, or other natural disasters, we can each do more to be prepared. One of the ways that your family can be better prepared for any kind of disaster is to reduce the number of hazardous chemicals found in your home.

Here are some suggestions for reducing the hazards in and around your home. Don't buy chemicals that you don't need. If you need a chemical, choose a product that will solve the problem, select the most benign option available, and purchase only the amount you need. Keep leftover chemicals in their original, labeled containers. Never pour potentially harmful chemicals into food or beverage containers for storage. Use up products, or give them to a friend, neighbor, or organization that needs them. Or, call us to ask for safe disposal instructions.

For more information about disasters, disaster debris, and preparedness, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## Something for sale, something to swap, something for nothing?

### Search these sites

#### Dump & Run

[www.dumpandrun.org](http://www.dumpandrun.org)

#### Earth 911

[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

(Click "Reuse & Recycling Services")

#### eBay

[www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)

#### Freecycle

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

#### Habitat for Humanity ReStore

[www.habitat.org/env/restore.aspx](http://www.habitat.org/env/restore.aspx)

#### i-WasteNot

[www.i-wastenot.com/](http://www.i-wastenot.com/)

#### Reuses

[www.reuses.com](http://www.reuses.com)

#### 2 Good 2 Toss

[www.2Good2Toss.com](http://www.2Good2Toss.com)

#### Throwplace

[www.throwplace.com](http://www.throwplace.com)

#### Waste Exchanges

[www.wastexchange.org](http://www.wastexchange.org)

(Click on "Other Exchanges")

## Worth noting

Since we're coming up on Earth Day, we wanted to share some good news that we've seen, heard, and noted:

- In a commercial entitled "Waste," everyday images of wasteful behavior—from leaving unneeded lights on to letting an unattended garden hose run—introduce this theme: "Maybe we could all use a little less." The ads promote the Honda Accord Hybrid.
- Kinko's stores, which are now part of FedEx, announced in

December that the standard paper used at the office and print centers will be 30-percent post-consumer recycled content, a jump from the 10-percent recycled content that the stores had been using. This raises the average recycled content used by the more than 1,100 stores to 26.2 percent overall.

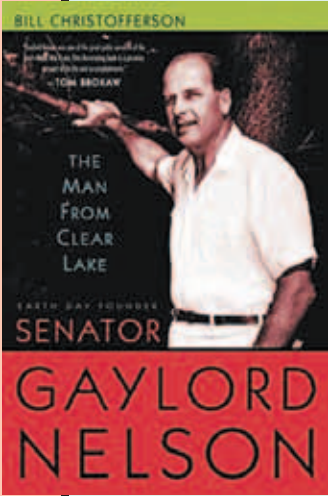
- Recycline makes toothbrush and razor handles from 100-percent recycled plastic. About 65 percent of the plastic to make these handles comes from recycled Stonyfield Farm yogurt cups. Recently, Stonyfield Farm and Recycline recycled the 1 millionth yogurt cup in this partnership. It takes two yogurt cups to make each new toothbrush handle. The yogurt cups must be returned to Stonyfield Farm for recycling. After use, the toothbrushes can be returned to Recycline for recycling. (For details about these recycling programs, go to [www.recycline.com](http://www.recycline.com) and [www.stonyfield.com](http://www.stonyfield.com).)



# Recommended reading for Earth Day

On April 22nd, we'll celebrate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day. Visit your local library or media center to learn a little more about Earth Day. While you're there, look for these three recently released books:

A biography that reads like a novel, *The Man from Clear Lake: Earth Day Founder Senator Gaylord Nelson* by Bill Christofferson (University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) tells the story of Gaylord Nelson. A governor of Wisconsin and later U.S. Senator from that state, Nelson is the man behind Earth Day. While in the Senate, Nelson championed the idea of a "teach-in" for the Earth in 1970, dubbed "Earth Day." To everyone's surprise, 10 percent of U.S. citizens took part in that first celebration, picking up litter, cleaning up playgrounds, learning about pollution, and making a difference. After leaving the Senate, Nelson continued to devote his life and career to the environment, serving as the head of the Wilderness Society.



Read and enjoy!

Written to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," *Earth Day Birthday* by Pattie Schnetzler and illustrated by Chad Wallace (Dawn Publications, 2004) introduces students in preschool through fourth grade to 12 native species of North American animals. The illustrations and lyrics show children and adults how habitats work and help them understand the importance of our country's varied environment.



Kids in first through third grade can learn math place values and learn about Earth Day at the same time in this clever book, *Earth Day—Hooray!* written by Stuart J. Murphy and illustrated by Renee Andriani (MathStart Series, HarperTrophy, 2004). In the book, a group of kids clean up a park and recycle aluminum cans to raise money for the purchase of flowers they want to plant.

## 10 Tips for greener gatherings

In the U.S., the wedding industry is a \$70 billion business, stressing brides, grooms, budgets, and the environment. Add to that the amount of money—and waste—created at other similar types of events, including family reunions, graduation parties, and retirement roasts, and you have a lot of resources devoted to gatherings.

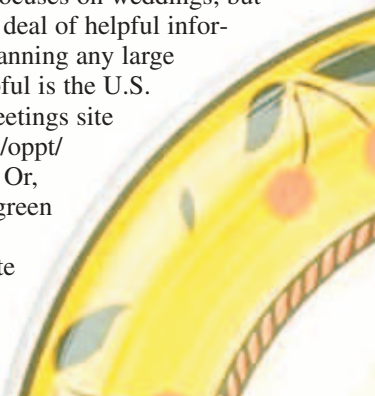


Here are some of the ways to make your gathering or celebration fun and earth friendly:

1. Avoid a lot of extra paper in invitations, such as double envelopes and reply card envelopes. If you need replies, request a phone call or include a stamped, self-addressed postcard.
2. Print everything from invitations and programs to thank-you notes on recycled-content paper.
3. Look for used formal wear, costumes, and wedding attire, including secondhand or vintage dresses and accessories.
4. Check into rentals. For years, men have rented tuxes. Why not rent or borrow a dress or suit for the occasion? In pictures, a rented dress can look just as lovely as a rented tux looks debonaire.
5. Select locally or regionally grown flowers, which are often grown with fewer pesticides and always require less fuel and create fewer emissions to deliver to your event.
6. Use washable and reusable plates, cups, napkins, and tablecloths. If you don't have enough for the



- number of guests, rent or borrow extras. Minimize your use of disposables, and you'll minimize your waste.
7. Plan to recycle at the party. Have containers for beverage container recycling near each trash bin. For multi-day events, such as family reunions, be sure to provide newspaper recycling, too.
  8. Send leftovers home with guests, or donate leftover food to the needy.
  9. Give party favors that are consumable, such as candy, teas, or coffees. Or, avoid party favors altogether. The guests came to share your special day—not to take a gift home!
  10. Read more about greening weddings, gatherings, and other celebrations. Look for these books: *Green Weddings That Don't Cost the Earth* by Carol Reed-Jones (Paper Crane Press, 1996) and *Organic Weddings: Balancing Ecology, Style and Tradition* by Michelle Kozin (New Society Publishers, 2003). The website [www.organicweddings.com](http://www.organicweddings.com) focuses on weddings, but contains a great deal of helpful information about planning any large event. Also helpful is the U.S. EPA's Green Meetings site at [www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings/](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings/). Or, type "planning green gatherings" into your favorite search engine and follow the related links.



## Brothers take greeting seriously

Since 1975, brothers Floyd and Earl Marian have been exchanging the same birthday card. Earl originally sent the *Peanuts* comic strip card, which carried the greeting: "This is the age of ecology! Don't throw this card away. Recycle it to a friend." Floyd took the message to heart and returned it on Earl's birthday the next month. The tradition has continued to this day, with each brother adding a handwritten line of greeting!

### Quotes Requested

Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want, to impress people they don't like.

Will Rogers  
American humorist and entertainer,  
1879-1935



Photo courtesy of Will Rogers Memorial Museums, [www.WillRogers.org](http://www.WillRogers.org)



You just can't keep a good idea down. What started in 2003 to limit the amount of trash accumulating in the Arizona desert has mushroomed into a global grassroots movement to match new owners with items no longer needed. And it's all free. Free? Yes, free—as in no money, no bartering, no trading!

It's called "Freecycle.org" and it works



like this: members post on the message board any item they "Offer" for free. Members may also ask for items "Wanted." When an offer and a want match up, the

two parties make arrangements directly via e-mail to meet for delivery.

A North Andover chapter was launched in March 2004 and today has more than 750 members. It's easy to sign up for the free membership. Visit [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org), scroll through Northeast U.S. to Massachusetts and then to North Andover. Click "Join Group" and follow the instructions.

# May is a month for reducing your 'waste' line!

By Joan Kulash

Oh, the things we accumulate! Once the sentimental value of those wedding gifts (which have remained unused in a storage closet for 15 years) has waned, maybe it's time to free up valuable space.

Why is NASWAC interested in helping you find a new home for your still-useful stuff? Because goods that trade hands have a reduced chance of ending up in the nearby trash incinerator. What could be more wasteful than the town paying to incinerate items that still have a useful life and fill someone else's need?

On May 7th, North Andover residents are invited to participate in a Regional Reuse Day. The event will be held in Andover and we are currently securing space in a large parking lot. Check the website for the exact place and times. The event will feature charitable organizations ready to take items you no longer need. Please bring items you could reasonably expect to sell at a yard sale. We are lining up organizations now to take household goods; CDs, videos, DVDs, and books; towels and rags; bicycles; clothing and shoes; and maybe more! Start getting ready now by setting aside items in a box labeled "Donations." Check the Recycling website for details on the participating organizations.

Continue your Spring Cleaning on Saturday, May 21:

- Back by popular demand, Shred Pro, which is owned by Pete and Susan Murley of North Andover, will provide free shredding for your confidential documents. Between 9 a.m. and noon, residents will be able to come to the DPW Garage, 384 Osgood Street and deliver any sensitive documents, including those that contain name, address, phone number, account numbers, financial information, signatures, or Social Security Numbers. You do not need to remove staples or rubber bands. Shredded documents will be recycled. Last year's event was a big success, despite the rain. Let's hope for sunny skies this time around. Proof of residency will be required to use this service. And a big thanks to the Murleys for making this service possible.
- And as long as you are making the trip, you can also get rid of your family's old athletic shoes. Instead of trashing those worn-out sneakers, bring them to the DPW on May 21 and par-



ticipate in Nike's "Reuse-A-Shoe" program. We will accept any brand of athletic shoe, but we cannot accept any shoes that have any metal parts, such as metal cleats. The shoes will be sent to Nike to be turned into Nike Grind, which is used to create new athletic surfaces, such as running tracks.

- Do you have a drawer full of old, used cell phones or empty ink jet cartridges? Drop them off for recycling at this event!
- Now is a great time of year to get into the composting habit with your organic kitchen and yard waste. Pick up a compost bin and kitchen scrap bucket.
- Are you having trouble fitting all of your recyclables into your one bin? Stop by and pick up a second (or third) red recycling bin.
- Pick up your recycled-content rain barrel. These 55-gallon rain barrels retail for \$85 and are being sold at the subsidized rate of \$52. See our website for details on how to place your order either by phone or e-mail.



Since our last newsletter we've added six Recycling Captains covering more than 150 households. A BIG thank you to:

- Bill DeHart, Brentwood Circle
- Julie Appleton, Abbott Street
- Sharon Aucoin, Tanglewood Lane, Rocky Brook Road, Wintergreen Drive, Lost Pond, and Ogunquit Road (Whew!)
- Pamela Cushing, Wayland Circle
- Beth Carlson, Essex Street
- Robin Ellington, South Bradford Street

Check out our new "School Recycling News" page on the recycling website for winners from the Essay and Poster Contest on Reuse, Recycling, and Environmental Issues.

Residents in the Lake Cochichewick watershed should remember that the use or method of application of any lawn care or garden product (fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide) that may contribute to the degradation of the public water supply, is PROHIBITED in all land areas located within 400 feet horizontally from the mean high water mark of Lake Cochichewick, and 400 feet from the edge of all wetland resource areas. If you are not sure whether your property lies within this area, please contact the DPW at 978-685-0950 to request a copy of the map showing the restricted districts.

Residents in the watershed outside the 400-foot buffer zones are urged to use best management practices to help protect the quality of Lake Cochichewick, our sole source of public drinking water. These practices include:

- Minimizing the use of pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides
- Minimizing fertilizer use

# Franklin first to recycle water bottles

By Joanne Parrill

Recently, Principal Pam Lathrop and parent

Patty Bartfay successfully piloted a water bottle recycling program at Franklin School. This program was made possible by the 2004 change in North Andover's recycling collection to include curbside pickup of all plastics.

With assistance from Bill Hmurciak, DPW Director, and Joanne Parrill, North Andover Solid Waste Advisory Committee member, two 95-gallon totes and 20 recycling bins were delivered to Franklin by DPW. The bins are located in the classrooms, emptied weekly into the totes by the students, and the totes are emptied by the North Andover DPW recycling truck every Monday along with the school's recyclable



paper waste. Mrs. Bartfay estimates that Franklin is recycling 250 water bottles each week. Great work, Franklin!

This is an outstanding first step in increasing the recycling efforts at the North

Andover Public Schools. Other recycling pilot programs include an end-of-year paper recycling cleanup and a Nike Reuse-A-Shoe recycling event, both planned for Sargent School.

Tell us about the recycling efforts at your school by sending an e-mail to [recycle@townofnorthandover.com](mailto:recycle@townofnorthandover.com). Have an idea—tell us about that, too!



At the Special Town Meeting on February 7, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee had an information booth, and members were on hand to answer questions from residents. Pictured that evening, from left to right, are Steve Daly, Vice-chair; Bill Hmurciak, DPW Director; Karen Kline; Leslie Young-Lemire; Mark Caggiano, Selectman; and Tina Klein, Chair. Other committee members not pictured are Joan Kulash, Joanne Parrill, and Margaret Barrett.

**We want your suggestions, questions and comments!**

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